UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/3
2 January 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 31 DECEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, and in reference to the letter dated 26 December 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, I have the honour to transmit herewith a further letter, dated 30 December 1996, addressed to you by the Minister. It contains additional information confirming the responsibility of the Al-Da'wah party, based in Iran and supported by the Government of that country, for the terrorist operation intended to threaten the life of Mr. Uday Saddam Hussein, son of the President of the Republic of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex, the letter from the Minister, circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 30 December 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter dated 26 December 1996 concerning the vicious attempt on the life of Mr. Uday Saddam Hussein, Chairman of the Iraqi National Olympic Committee and son of Mr. Saddam Hussein, President of the Republic of Iraq, I should like to refer to the statements made by Jawwad Al-Maliki, a member of the so-called political office of the Al-Da'wah party, concerning the attempted assassination of Mr. Uday Saddam Hussein. It was published in the Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Rai al-Aam on 29 December 1996, and asserted the responsibility of that party for the attempted assassination. Details of the crime were given, and it was also claimed that the attempt was the prelude to major operations to be carried out against the Iraqi regime.

While drawing your attention to these statements, I should like to renew my request that you intervene with the Government of Iran and urge it to hand over the perpetrators of this vicious crime to the Iraqi authorities for trial or try them itself.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has addressed a further note verbale on this issue, a copy of which is enclosed, to the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

Enclosure

Note verbale dated 21 December 1996 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Baghdad

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Baghdad and has the honour to refer to the former's letter No. 7/7/5/Re./1/67389, dated 28 December 1996, and to the statements made by Jawwad Al-Maliki, a member of the so-called political office of the Al-Da'wah party, published in the Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Rai al-Aam on 29 December 1996. The aforementioned person asserted that the Al-Da'wah party was responsible for the attempted assassination of Mr. Uday Saddam Hussein, son of the President of the Republic of Iraq. Details of the terrorist crime were given, and it was also claimed that this attack was the prelude to major operations to be carried out against the Iraqi authorities.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, referring to these statements, renews its call for the Iranian Government to hand over the perpetrators of this crime to the Iraqi authorities for trial or try them itself. This is in keeping with the provisions of international law relating to terrorist acts.

In the hope that Muslims will join forces for truth and justice and raise God's banner in the face of oppression and tyranny, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq takes this opportunity to convey to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Baghdad the assurances of its highest consideration.